

Washington State Damage Reporting

Q3 2018 DIRT Analysis July - Sept 2018



Introduction

This Washington Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the third quarter of 2018. For the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to DIRT within the 45 day timeframe set in statute. Any damages occurring during that time and submitted after the 45 days will not be included in this analysis.

Trends

A total of **890** damage reports were submitted to the DIRT database in the third quarter of 2018. With a very small number of duplicate damage reports where both the facility operator and the excavator reported damages, they both have been left in the root cause analysis. This is because each report listed different root causes for the damage incident, except for one incident, where there was agreement.

Root Cause

Examining the root cause for damage incidents provides valuable information in preventing future damage. When filing DIRT reports, we always encourage thoughtful determination of the actual root cause. This gives everyone who evaluates DIRT reports the best opportunity to provide accurate analysis of the reasons for the damage.

Notification Issue accounted for 33 percent of the total damages this quarter with 233 reports stating that no notification had been made to the one-call center/811. Under Locate Requests (see below), there were 321 reports that indicate no locate request was made. This points out that the submitter used a different root cause on 88 reports, rather than state that there were no requests for a locate or locate marks on the ground.

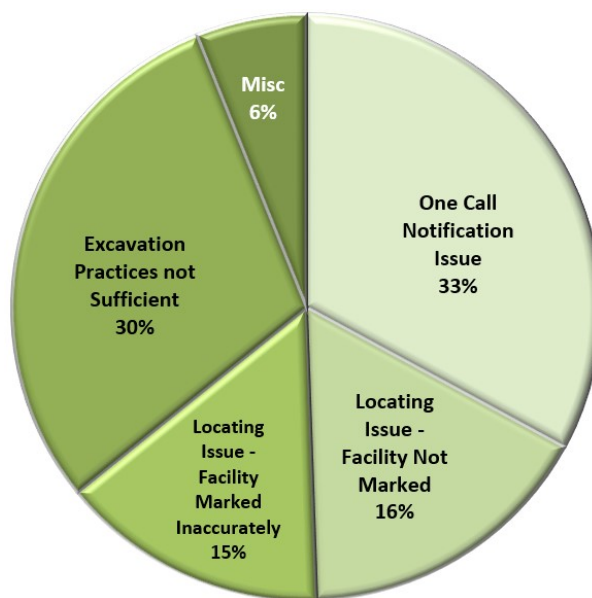
Excavation Practices accounts for 30 percent of the reports received this quarter with causes as follows: Improper excavation practices 106; Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole 55; and Excavator failed to maintain clearance 49.

Locating Issue - Facility Not Marked has stayed at 16 percent of the total. There were 96 reports stating the the damage was caused by not marking due to locator error, and 19 reports stated it was because of incorrect facility records/maps. This category was at 24 percent in the first quarter, marking a two quarter improvement.

Locating Issue - Facility Marked Inaccurately is identified as 15 percent with 81 reports listing that the facility was marked inaccurately due to locator error.

Miscellaneous category makes up the last six percent with 46 reports identifying that a root cause was not listed in the other categories, and 6 stating that there was previous damage. **Submitters should always try to determine a root cause when submitting DIRT reports. By doing so, it will help identify where education and outreach efforts need to be focused.**

Damage by Root Cause



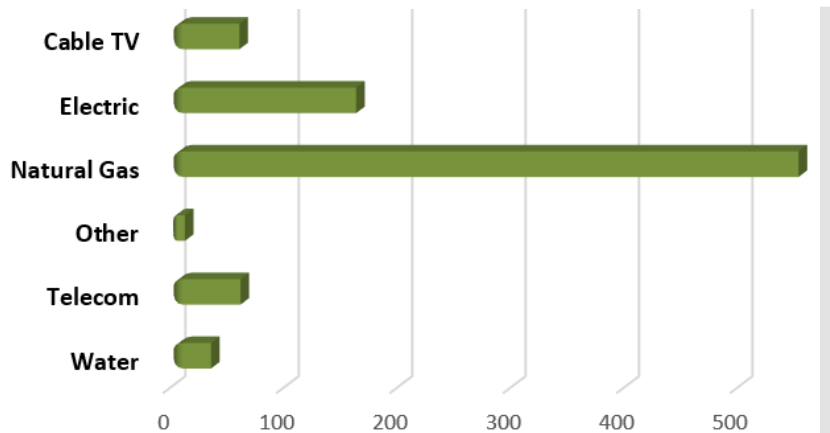
LOCATE REQUESTS FOR THE 890 REPORTS:

569	— YES a locate was requested	64%
321	— NO locate was requested	36%

Facilities Damaged

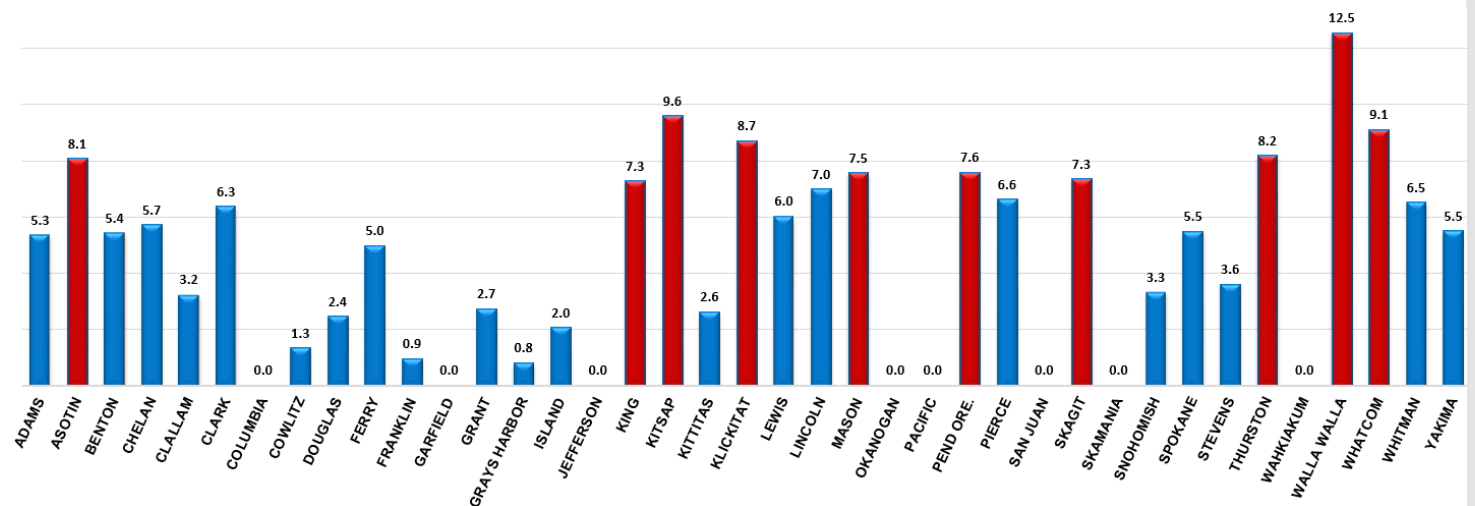
In the past we have used this space to report on the stakeholders who have submitted reports. This quarter we are making a change to report how many times the facilities have been damaged.

Natural gas damage accounted for 62 percent of the damage reports with 554 damages. **Electric** services were damaged 164 times according to 18 percent of the reports. **Telecommunications** had 62 damages and **Cable TV** was damaged 61 times. There were 36 damages to **Water** facilities, and 13 damages listed in the **Other** category. This category includes sewer and liquid pipelines.



Damage Events by County

The chart below provides a visual comparison of **damage incidents by county, per 1,000 incoming locate requests**. We previously highlighted counties that were over 10 damages per 1,000 locate requests, then focused training and education in those counties. If you have been watching this data point, you will know that progress has been made, and that education and outreach by many stakeholders has worked. Again, we are highlighting counties with more than **seven** damages per 1,000 locate requests, to help identify places that can also benefit from education, advertising, or outreach. We believe this data point helps visually show the importance of continuing to stretch towards our goal of reducing damages further, and make more people aware of the importance of calling or clicking 811.



Education

The above graph gives a fantastic visual picture of what can happen when stakeholders work together with a vested interest in damage prevention, public safety and protecting infrastructure. The numbers above lower with more calls or on-line requests to 811. Please take opportunities to educate others whenever possible about the importance of requesting locates and safe excavation practices. You can also provide the commission's contact information to anyone who is unaware of the requirements outlined in RCW 19.122, or in need of information about damage reporting. If you have questions about this report, damage reporting, or would like to request a presentation by the commission, please contact [Lynda Holloway](#).